

REMARKS

Before addressing the single rejection set forth in the Action, applicants note that the present application is the national stage of an international application in which the certified copy of the priority document has been submitted as noted by Form PCT/IB/304 (provided with the present application at the time of filing) and the Notice of Acceptance dated August 30, 2005. Therefore, applicants respectfully request acknowledgement of receipt of the priority document in the next Official Action.

In the Official Action, the Examiner only rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103 based on the teachings of JP 10-175376. It was the Examiner's position that the claims are obvious even though the recited SP value (solubility parameter), glass transition temperature (T_g), and minimum film-forming temperature (MFT) are not specifically disclosed in combination.

While applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's position, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the polyolefin copolymer resin emulsion (c) has a particle size of 2000 nm or less. This additional recitation is based on the description provided in the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 6. As further stated in this paragraph, when the particle size is large, the polyolefin copolymer resin emulsion separates as an upper layer in the resin emulsion (a) and the protective layer becomes heterogeneous since it is insufficient in uniform dispersibility.

The '376 JP publication does not disclose or suggest the now claimed particle size of the polyolefin copolymer resin emulsion. Furthermore, there is no example in the document wherein a polyolefin copolymer resin emulsion is used as a protective layer, much less the protective layer defined in the claims of record. When this

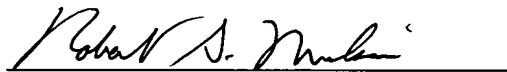
further distinction is considered in conjunction with the noted failure of the document to describe the defined combination of characteristics set forth above, applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentable over the cited prior art of record and therefore request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of the present application, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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